

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 33

Introduced by Assembly Member Dymally

April 29, 2003

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 33—Relative to Taiwan and the World Health Organization.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 33, as introduced, Dymally. Taiwan and the World Health Organization.

This measure would commend the Republic of China on Taiwan on its contributions to promote world health and memorialize the President and Congress to take action necessary to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Good health is important to every citizen of the
2 world and access to the highest standards of health information and
3 services is necessary to improve the public health; and
4 WHEREAS, Direct and unobstructed participation in
5 international health cooperation forums and programs is
6 beneficial for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater
7 potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases
8 such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis,
9 and malaria; and
10 WHEREAS, Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is
11 larger than that of three-quarters of the member states already in
12 the World Health Organization (WHO); and

1 WHEREAS, Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are
2 substantial; including one of the highest life expectancy levels in
3 Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of
4 western countries, the eradication of such infectious diseases as
5 cholera, smallpox, and the plague, and being the first country in
6 Asia to eradicate polio and provide children with hepatitis B
7 vaccinations; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention and its Taiwan counterpart agencies have enjoyed close
10 collaboration on a wide range of public health issues; and

11 WHEREAS, In recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness
12 to assist financially and technically in international aid and health
13 activities supported by the WHO; and

14 WHEREAS, On January 14, 2001, an earthquake struck El
15 Salvador that registered between 7.6 and 7.9 on the Richter scale
16 and, in response, the Taiwanese government sent two rescue teams
17 that consisted of 90 individuals who specialized in firefighting,
18 medicine, and civil engineering, and donated \$200,000 in relief
19 aid; and

20 WHEREAS, The World Health Assembly has allowed
21 observers to participate in the activities of the organization,
22 including the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974, the Order
23 of Malta, and the Holy See in the early 1950s; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy
25 Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in
26 appropriate international organizations; and

27 WHEREAS, In light of all the benefits that Taiwan's
28 participation in the WHO can bring to the state of health not only
29 in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally, Taiwan and its
30 23,500,000 people should have appropriate and meaningful
31 participation in the WHO; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
33 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California commends
34 the Republic of China on Taiwan on its contributions to promote
35 world health; and be it further;

36 *Resolved,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the
37 President and Congress of the United States to take action
38 necessary to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the
39 annual week-long summit of the World Health Assembly in
40 Geneva, Switzerland; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
2 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
3 States, to each Senator and Representative from California in the
4 Congress of the United States, to the United States Secretary of
5 Health and Human Services, to the United States Secretary of
6 State, and to the Director General of the World Health
7 Organization.

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